

## WORKING PAPER TWO:

Attachment One: 4/6/00 Final Draft

## PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

### Introduction

The Regional Off-Street System (ROSS) Plan, initiated by the Maricopa Association of Governments, will reveal a region-wide system of off-street pathways for travel by bicyclists and pedestrians. Throughout the MAG region, numerous opportunities for off-street travel by people who walk and bicycle exist along areas such as canal banks, utility line easements and flood control channels. These types of rights-of-way and easements are found throughout Maricopa County and intersect many arterial streets where the local daily destinations are typically located. The goal of the ROSS plan is to help make bicycling and walking viable options for daily travel trips using off-street opportunities.

The possibility of developing and expanding travel options for people who bicycle and walk is exciting and offers many benefits to residents in the Valley. These benefits include reduced traffic congestion and air pollution from less local trips made by automobile, and improved health and well-being that comes from regular exercise. While not all trips can be replaced by bicycling and walking, many can, such as walking to work or the bus stop, children riding bicycles to school, errands to the grocery or video store, and after-school sporting activities. The ROSS plan will identify issues associated with multi-use pathways, identify corridors which could be used for pathways, and develop project priorities and design standards. In addition, creating the plan and its priorities will help provide support for federal transportation funding requests.

This working paper, the first of several, describes the public and agency involvement plan for the ROSS plan. Public and agency involvement in the Regional Off-Street System (ROSS) Plan is key to its success. Participants include a wide range of interested parties, including, representatives of MAG member agencies interested in transportation and open space planning, interested groups and/or organizations, elected officials, the general public, and groups who could be very involved in the implementation of the plan such as the Salt River Project and the Flood Control District.

The extensive outreach program outlined below provides opportunities for all interested parties to become involved. Several steps have been taken to ensure maximum opportunity for participation. As a starting point, information regarding the ROSS Plan will be made available on the MAG Website, at [www.mag.maricopa.gov](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov) under the Regional Bicycle Task Force Committee. This will be updated on a regular basis. Also, an e-mail address has been created by the consultants, specifically to receive comments and feedback on the ROSS Plan throughout the planning process. The e-mail address is **ross@rbf.com**.

The proposed schedule for this project is shown below.

## Project Schedule

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July
<b>PROJECT TASKS</b>							
Public and Agency Involvement Plan		Feb 15					
Identify Issues and Opportunities; Prioritize Issues		Feb 18					
Develop Plan Vision Statement, Goals and Objectives		Feb 25					
<b>Newsletter</b>			March 31				
Corridor Identification			March 17				
Corridor Evaluation			March 31				
<b>Newsletter</b>					May 31		
Performance Standards				April 28			
Project Prioritization					May 19		
Implementation and Funding						June 9	
<b>Newsletter</b>							July 31
Draft MAG ROSS Plan							July 9

## MAG Oversight Committee

The Oversight committee, which consists of the MAG Regional Bicycle Task Force and the MAG Pedestrian Working Group, will play a key role in directing the project. The Regional Bicycle Task Force is comprised of representatives from the MAG member agencies, the Arizona Department of Transportation, and the Regional Public Transportation Authority. The Task Force recommends bicycle-related projects for funding from federal and other sources. The Pedestrian Working Group consists of representatives of MAG member agencies, and the landscape architecture community. The Working Group reviews and updates the MAG Pedestrian Plan, and develops activities to educate the region about the benefits of walking. Member agencies without representation on the Task Force or Working Group are involved in the planning process either through the Regional Trails Forum described below or through their representative on the MAG Street Committee.

Monthly meetings with the Oversight Committee are held throughout the planning process. These meetings serve as somewhat informal working sessions and are an opportunity to receive ideas and feedback at key points in the process. The intent is that these meetings are flexible enough to meet the needs of the committee and accomplish the goals for each meeting. Meeting dates and tentative discussion items are presented in the table on the following page.

## Regional Trails Forum

The Regional Trails Forum is a group of interested citizens that have been asked to participate in this process. It includes representatives of various organizations interested in walking, biking and trail development in Maricopa County. It also includes agencies who may have a strong role in implementing the ROSS plan. Everyone on the mailing list, approximately 250 people, receives notice of the Trails Forum meetings at least one week in advance. Meeting dates and tentative discussion items follow in the table below.

## Meeting Dates, Participants and Tentative Discussion Topics

The table below lists meeting dates, participants in the meetings and tentative discussion items for the Oversight Committee and the Regional Trails Forums. The actual discussion items may vary as the project progresses depending on unforeseen issues or opportunities.

Meeting Date and Time	Participants	Tentative Discussion Topics
January 18 4:00 - 6:00	Regional Trails Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce Consultant Team</li> <li>• Provide an Overview of the Study</li> <li>• Discuss and Document Issues and Needs</li> </ul>
February 22 1:30 - 3:30	Oversight Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain Input on a Draft Vision Statement and Goals and Objectives</li> <li>• Help Identify Corridors on a Map</li> <li>• Identify Types of Data to Consider in Developing Evaluation Criteria for Corridors.</li> </ul>
March 21 4:00 - 6:00	Oversight Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment on Vision Statement, Issues, Goals and Objectives</li> <li>• Comment on Potential Corridors</li> <li>• Comment on Corridor Evaluation Criteria</li> <li>• Discuss Factors to Consider in Developing Performance Standards</li> </ul>
March 21 1:30 - 3:30	Regional Trails Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment on Vision Statement, Goals and Objectives, and Issues</li> <li>• Comment on Potential Corridors</li> <li>• Comment on Evaluation Criteria</li> </ul>
April 18 1:30 - 3:30	Oversight Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment on Performance Standards</li> <li>• Identify Projects for Prioritization</li> <li>• Identify Factors to Consider in Developing an Action Plan</li> </ul>
May 16 1:30 - 3:30	Oversight Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment on Draft of Prioritized Projects</li> <li>• Comment on Action Plan</li> </ul>
May 16 4:00 - 6:00	Regional Trails Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment on Draft of Prioritized Projects</li> <li>• Comment on Action Plan</li> </ul>

Meeting Date and Time	Participants	Tentative Discussion Topics
June 20 1:30 - 3:30	Oversight Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment on First Draft Plan</li> </ul>
July 18 4:00-6:30	Regional Trails Forum Oversight Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of Final Draft Plan</li> </ul>

## Newsletters

Three newsletters will be prepared and circulated to the Oversight Committee, the Trails Forum and placed on the website for review. These will provide information regarding the status of the project and present findings to date. The first newsletter will describe various methods for contacting both MAG and the consultant to provide input on the project or ask questions about it. The second will include information regarding corridor identification and evaluation. The third newsletter will be in the form of a fact sheet that will summarize the Plan.

## Public Outreach

It is important that the general public be provided with opportunities to participate in the project. Many valuable ideas come from the potential users of the system. The public will be informed of opportunities to participate in a variety of ways. First, as previously stated, information will be made available on the MAG website. Second, meetings of the Trails Forum and Oversight Committee are open to the public. A press release will be prepared and distributed for each Regional Trails Forum.

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